



# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 21 December 2005

Current  
Nationwide  
Threat Level is  
**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF  
TERRORIST ATTACKS  
[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)  
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

## Daily Highlights

- The Washington Post reports Guidance Software — the leading provider of software used to diagnose hacker break-ins — has been hacked, resulting in the exposure of financial and personal data connected to thousands of law enforcement officials and network-security professionals. (See item [10](#))
- CNN reports for the first time in 25 years, New York's transit workers went on strike early Tuesday, December 20, shutting down the nation's largest public transportation system just days ahead of Christmas, and leaving millions of passengers to find a new way of getting around. (See item [15](#))
- The Associated Press reports federal investigators have joined with Albuquerque police and New Mexico state police in the hunt for hundreds of pounds of plastic explosives stolen Sunday, December 18, at a secure Albuquerque storage facility. (See item [33](#))

### DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

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## Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *December 20, Associated Press* — **Customers in Carolinas still without power.** More than 105,000 customers in the Carolinas remained without power Tuesday, December 20, about half

of them residents of Greenville, SC, who have gone six days without electricity. Duke Power had restored nearly 600,000 outages since the storm, and has said that the power might be out for some until 11 p.m. Tuesday. Duke spokesperson Lee Lewis said work slows with each day because instead of taking care of neighborhoods, crews begin to work on individual homes and problems.

Source: [http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/florida/sfl-1220carol\\_inacold.0.156750.story?coll=sfla-news-florida](http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/florida/sfl-1220carol_inacold.0.156750.story?coll=sfla-news-florida)

- 2. December 20, Associated Press — States receive funds to train more coal miners.** The federal government is stepping in to help ease a shortage of trained coal miners in Appalachia. The U.S. Department of Labor will provide grants totaling \$6 million to train new coal miners in Kentucky and West Virginia, where companies have been trying to lure experienced workers away from competitors by offering higher wages and better benefits. The initiative was praised by mining industry representatives after Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao announced the funding Monday, December 19. Bill Caylor, president of the Kentucky Coal Association, said a lack of trained miners has hindered the mining industry in filling blue-collar positions created by an upswing in the coalfield economy. The federal grants are part of nearly \$27 million in investments made in support of the nation's energy workforce over the past two years under the Bush Administration's High Growth Job Training Initiative, a strategic plan to prepare workers for jobs in expanding industries.

Source: <http://www.wvgazette.com/section/News/Other%20News/2005121921>

- 3. December 20, Australian Associated Press — Threat boosts security at Australian power plants.** Security has been boosted at four New South Wales (NSW), Australia, power plants as Delta Electricity moved to allay fears that an extortionist would try to sabotage the facilities. Delta, the second-largest energy company in NSW, said it had received an extortion letter threatening to sabotage a power plant. Steps have been taken to boost security at all four plants, but Delta has denied reports the extortionist had threatened to bomb power stations and had demanded a multi-million-dollar ransom. "The extortion demand involved an amount of money but was not a multi-million demand," Delta chief executive Jim Henness said. "The threat included in the demand relates to sabotage of plant and makes no mention of a bomb, in fact it does not directly threaten harm to people," said Henness. Police have established Strike Force Wayside to investigate the threat, and detectives are working with Delta to help identify the source of the demand, received in the last two weeks.

Source: <http://www.theage.com.au/news/National/Threat-boosts-security-at-power-plants/2005/12/20/1135032011876.html>

- 4. December 19, Reuters — Truck with radioactive capsule stolen in Venezuela.** Venezuela on Monday, December 19, warned of a radiation hazard and launched a nationwide search for a capsule with highly radioactive material that was stolen along with the truck carrying it. "We have a state of emergency at a national and regional level and are looking for the capsule everywhere," said civil defense director Colonel Antonio Rivero. The truck was stolen in the central-western Yaracuy state on Sunday night, December 18. Angel Diaz, director of nuclear affairs at Venezuela's Energy Ministry, asked the thieves to return the potentially deadly device, whose protective container is about the size of a lunchbox. Diaz said he could not rule out the use of the capsule for "malicious purposes," but Rivero said the authorities were focusing on simple truck theft as the motive. The device contains Iridium-192, which emits powerful

gamma radiation and is used for industrial radiography, such as for detecting faults in underground industrial pipes. In March, two capsules with Iridium-192 went missing through negligence in two separate states in Venezuela. Rivero said one had since been found and authorities suspected the other had been disposed of at the bottom of Lake Maracaibo.

Source: [http://today.reuters.com/news/newsarticle.aspx?type=worldNews&storyid=2005-12-19T235514Z\\_01\\_ARM985875\\_RTRUKOC\\_0\\_US-VENEZUELA-RADIOACTIVE.xml](http://today.reuters.com/news/newsarticle.aspx?type=worldNews&storyid=2005-12-19T235514Z_01_ARM985875_RTRUKOC_0_US-VENEZUELA-RADIOACTIVE.xml)

5. *December 19, RenewableEnergyAccess.com* — **Department of the Interior changes will spur wind power development.** Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton announced the completion of an environmental review that will allow the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to significantly expand its wind energy program on public lands while ensuring the conservation of threatened and endangered species and migratory birds. With the publication of the record of decision on a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, BLM also is amending 52 land-use plans in nine western states to generate more than 3,200 MW of wind energy. While changes in the land-use plans will speed development of wind energy, individual projects will still require site-specific analysis and permits. Nevertheless, BLM expects to be able to shorten the approval process for new wind energy projects from two or more years to less than a year. "We are taking an important step in diversifying and expanding America's energy supply while conserving wildlife and its habitat," Norton said. "We can conceivably produce six times more wind energy on BLM lands," said Norton.

Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement: <http://windeis.anl.gov/>  
Source: <http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story;jsessionid=a2ltV-JrZHba?id=40718>

6. *December 18, Atlanta Business Chronicle* — **Nuclear fuel missing.** Last May, workers at Southern Co.'s Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, located near Baxley, GA, discovered that 68 inches of dangerous used nuclear fuel rods were missing. An exhaustive search during the seven months since has failed to find the missing parts of rods. Officials at Southern Co. have said the possibility of theft is not plausible and that there is no threat to public health or safety. Nonetheless, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is watching the matter closely. "We want to know what happened and see that it doesn't happen again," said NRC spokesperson Ken Clark. The discrepancy is the fourth such reported incident in U.S. history and the second largest, according to the NRC. However, the NRC stresses there is no threat of any lost materials falling into the wrong hands. However unlikely, if a terrorist acquired even a few inches of used fuel rod parts, he could create a "dirty bomb," said William Miller, a professor of nuclear science and engineering at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Source: <http://msnbc.msn.com/id/10527669/>

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## **Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector**

7. *December 19, Associated Press* — **Plan calls for tighter chemical plant security.** A Senate plan for stronger government regulation of chemical plant security will allow states to set tougher standards than initially envisioned, according to legislation filed Monday, December 19. The bill would allow the Department of Homeland Security to shut down chemical plants

that repeatedly fail to create, update, and submit security plans for their facilities. The chemical industry — which experts believe is a top target for terrorists — generally self-regulates its 15,000 plants nationwide on a voluntary basis. The final plan, by Senators Susan Collins, R-ME, and Joe Lieberman, D-CT, does not set specific minimum standards for the industry to meet.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/nation/3535257.html>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

8. *December 19, Reuters* — **Rocket merger to slip into next year.** Lockheed Martin Corp. on Monday, December 19, said it remained committed to a 50–50 joint venture with Boeing Co. for launching government satellites, but no longer expected to complete the deal this year. Both companies had hoped to finalize the venture by year's end, but it is still being reviewed by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Defense, dimming the chances for its completion this year. “Realistically speaking, considering that it's already December 19 and that we don't have a decision from the government, a year-end closing just can't be achieved,” said Tom Jurkowsky, spokesperson for the Bethesda, MD-based Lockheed. He stressed that the company remained committed to the venture, which would merge Boeing's Delta 4 and Lockheed's Atlas 5 operations, developed under the Air Force's Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle program, and was working to address issues raised by the government.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/business/business-arms-lockheed-boeing.html>

9. *December 17, Aviation Week & Space Technology* — **British defense industrial strategy released.** Unveiling a grand defense industrial strategy, the British government is signaling that the Joint Strike Fighter will be its last manned combat aircraft and that it will launch an unmanned combat air vehicle technology demonstrator in 2006. The government's defense industrial strategy (DIS) will determine the shape of the UK's defense industry for decades to come, as well as the government's relationships with U.S. and European companies. The document is the first time a British government has attempted to spell out its policy in this arena, and is intended to address radically changing requirements in an evolving defense market. The DIS is an attempt to fill the void that has until now been British defense industrial policy, across the air, land and naval sectors. The document flushes out previously classified unmanned combat air vehicle (UCAV) research, committing the ministry to launch a full-scale technology demonstrator next year. The UCAV effort is a key element of the approach to air systems enshrined in the policy paper.

Defense Industrial Strategy: <http://www.mod.uk/issues/industry/index.html>

Source: [http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/news/channel\\_awst\\_story.jsp?id=news/12195p1.xml](http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/news/channel_awst_story.jsp?id=news/12195p1.xml)

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

10.

*December 19, Washington Post* — **Hackers break into computer–security firm's customer database.** Guidance Software — the leading provider of software used to diagnose hacker break–ins — has itself been hacked, resulting in the exposure of financial and personal data connected to thousands of law enforcement officials and network–security professionals. Guidance alerted customers to the incident in a letter sent last week, saying it discovered on December 7 that hackers had broken into a company database and made off with approximately 3,800 customer credit card numbers. Guidance's EnCase software is used by security researchers and law enforcement agencies worldwide. John Colbert, the company's chief executive officer, said Guidance alerted all of its customers less than two days after discovering the break–in, and that it would no longer store customer credit card data. Guidance stored customer records in unencrypted databases, and indefinitely retained customers' "card value verification" (CVV) numbers, the three–digit codes on the back of credit cards that are meant to protect against fraud in online and telephone sales, according to Colbert and the notification letter sent to customers. Merchant guidelines published by both Visa and MasterCard require sellers to encrypt customer credit–card databases. They are also prohibited from retaining CVV numbers for any longer than it takes to verify a given transaction.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/12/19/AR2005121900928.html>

- December 18, New York Daily News* — **Money laundering fears spur probe.** Convinced that Manhattan's banks are being used to launder money for terrorists and drug cartels, state prosecutors are quietly encouraging bankers to pay more attention to money laundering laws. Banks have come under scrutiny, and many are paying stiff fines, for the way they did business with unregulated money transmitters abroad — particularly those in a remote corner of South America known as the Tri–Border Area. That's where the borders of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay meet and drug and arms dealers, terrorist organizations, corrupt politicians and businessmen use money transmitters to launder billions each year. Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau said his investigators got wise to Tri–Border activities after probing Beacon Hill Services Corp., an unlicensed money transmitter that moved \$6 billion through New York from 1997 to 2003. More than \$1 billion of that came from Tri–Border transmitters, some just tiny shops with no names on the doors. According to a Library of Congress study, al Qaeda, Hamas, Hezbollah and radical groups from Iran and Egypt have used the large, tight knit Islamic community living in the Tri–Border region to raise funds, recruit members, stash sleeper cells and plot attacks abroad.

Source: <http://www.nydailynews.com/front/story/375822p-319264c.html>

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## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

- December 20, Associated Press* — **Air India flight makes emergency landing at Los Angeles International Airport.** An Air India flight with 273 passengers and crew members aboard made an emergency landing at Los Angeles International Airport after blowing a tire upon taking off from the airport, officials said. Air India Flight 136 departed at 8:33 p.m. PST, Monday, December 19, for Frankfurt, Germany, and safely returned to the airport at 10 p.m. EST, after dumping fuel, said airport spokesperson Nancy Castles. Sparks flew from the 747–400 aircraft upon emergency landing. There were no reports of injuries. The Federal

Aviation Administration temporarily halted flights at the airport while the aircraft was landing, but operations resumed soon afterward, Castles said.

Source: [http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle.asp?xfile=data/theworld/2005/December/theworld\\_December573.xml&section=theworld&col=](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle.asp?xfile=data/theworld/2005/December/theworld_December573.xml&section=theworld&col=)

- 13. December 20, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (NY) — Boeing 717 slides, gets stuck in mud at New York airport.** An AirTran jetliner got stuck in the mud Tuesday, December 20, alongside a taxiway at Greater Rochester International Airport in New York, forcing the 85 people aboard the plane to wait for a bus to take them to the terminal. The Boeing 717 aircraft landed at the airport in routine fashion shortly before noon. But as the pilot began taxiing back to the terminal, the aircraft's front wheel slipped off the tarmac and got stuck in the mud, Monroe County spokesperson Krista Hamburg said. There were no reports of injuries aboard the plane.

Source: <http://www.rochesterdandc.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051220/NEWS01/512210305/1007/SPORTS>

- 14. December 20, Associated Press — Airline says cause of delays due to inadequate staffing and preparedness.** United Airlines' (UAL) chief executive says inadequate staffing and unpreparedness at the nation's second largest airline contributed to hours of delays for thousands of early holiday travelers who stood outside for hours in frigid weather at O'Hare International Airport on Saturday, December 17. UAL's Glenn Tilton said that the airline "disappointed our customers by not being prepared, as we should have been, for the extraordinary volume of passengers" during the weekend. The Saturday morning delays resulted in lines that stretched outside in freezing temperatures and waits of four hours or more. The city sent four buses to provide shelter to people waiting outside in temperatures that never climbed above 21 degrees. United spokesperson Jeff Green said Saturday's problems included efforts to find flights for several hundred customers whose flights east were canceled the day before due to inclement weather and travelers showing up early for new flights. He also said more workers should have been scheduled Saturday morning. He said some passengers were put on later flights, routed through other cities or put on another airline.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-12-20-ual-ohare\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-12-20-ual-ohare_x.htm)

- 15. December 20, CNN — Millions of New York riders must improvise due to transit strike.** Millions of passengers in New York City must find a new way of getting to and from work, do their holiday shopping, and run their everyday errands. For the first time in 25 years, New York's transit workers went on strike early Tuesday, December 20, shutting down the nation's largest public transportation system days ahead of Christmas. The strike brings to a grinding halt Metropolitan Transportation Authority buses and subways throughout the city. The system averages about seven million passengers on weekdays. City officials have said a transit strike could cost the city \$440 million to \$660 million a day. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority and city have responded by taking the union — and its more than 30,000 members — to court with contempt proceedings. Traffic clogged all of Manhattan's inbound bridges and tunnels early Tuesday in spite of a city mandate allowing only cars with four or more people entering the borough and traveling below 96th Street. Schools also started two hours late. The strike defies a court injunction last week as well as the Taylor Law, which forbids public employees from walking off the job. The law imposes a fine of two days' pay for each day of an illegal strike.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2005/US/12/20/nyc.transit/index.html>

- 16. *December 19, U.S. Customs and Border Protection* — Hundreds of cargo trucks destined for commercial passenger planes inspected by authorities.** U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced that a two-day multi-agency law enforcement operation conducted by the Cargo Security Task Force at Miami International Airport (MIA) targeting cargo destined for domestic and international passenger planes culminated Thursday evening, December 15. The inspection of more than 350 cargo trucks and four commercial airline warehouses yielded numerous arrests, violations, and fines. Four violations of improperly packaged materials were discovered. Among the most alarming items discovered were radioactive materials. The operation was carried out by the Cargo Security Task Force whose primary mission is to identify and neutralize potential public and national security threats relating to cargo transported on passenger planes. This operation was the result of a collaborative effort of ICE, CBP, along with the Miami Police Department; the Florida Department of Law Enforcement; the Florida Highway Patrol; the Florida Department of Transportation, Motor Carrier Enforcement; the Transportation Security Administration; the Department of Transportation, Office of Inspector General; the Federal Aviation Administration, Hazardous Materials Field Unit; among others.

Source: [http://cbp.gov/xp/cgov/newsroom/press\\_releases/12192005\\_4.xml](http://cbp.gov/xp/cgov/newsroom/press_releases/12192005_4.xml)

- 17. *December 19, Reuters* — Report critical of airline maintenance oversight.** Some U.S. airlines have shifted scheduled aircraft maintenance to contract facilities that receive little attention from government or airline safety inspectors, a government report said on Monday, December 19. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has long allowed U.S. carriers to complete minor tasks or bigger emergency jobs at lightly regulated repair sites in the United States and overseas to keep planes in the air on short notice. But an audit of maintenance practices at 19 airlines by Transportation Department Inspector General Kenneth Mead found that six carriers, none of which was identified in the report, have pushed at least some scheduled maintenance, which can include engine, wing, and fuselage inspections, to centers that lack direct FAA oversight. Mead said "more significant work than anyone realized" is being performed at these locations and said the FAA had not been aware of it. About 40 percent of the work is going to less regulated operations. The FAA did not contest most of Mead's findings and said it was up to airlines to monitor maintenance at these shops because its staffing was limited. The FAA will then check the quality of the airlines' oversight.

Report: [http://www.oig.dot.gov/StreamFile?file=/data/pdfdocs/av20060\\_31.pdf](http://www.oig.dot.gov/StreamFile?file=/data/pdfdocs/av20060_31.pdf)

Source: [http://today.reuters.com/news/newsarticle.aspx?type=domesticNews&storyid=2005-12-19T203506Z\\_01\\_SPI974086\\_RTRUKOC\\_0\\_US-AIRLINES-MAINTENANCE.xml](http://today.reuters.com/news/newsarticle.aspx?type=domesticNews&storyid=2005-12-19T203506Z_01_SPI974086_RTRUKOC_0_US-AIRLINES-MAINTENANCE.xml)

- 18. *December 15, Congressional Research Service* — Congressional Research Service Report: Securing General Aviation.** General aviation (GA) — a catch-all category that includes about 57 percent of all civilian aviation activity within the United States — encompasses a wide range of airports, aircraft, and flight operations. Because GA plays a small but important role in the U.S. economy, improving upon GA security without unduly impeding air commerce or limiting the freedom of movement by air remains a significant challenge. While some recent high-profile breaches of GA security point to persisting vulnerabilities and limited intelligence information suggests a continued terrorist interest in using GA aircraft, it is evident that GA

airports, aircraft, and operations vary significantly with regard to security risk. While the small size and slow speed of most GA aircraft significantly limits the risk they pose, some experts still fear that they could be used as a platform for a chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear attack. A variety of options exist for mitigating security risks that can be tailored to specific GA airports and operations. These include surveillance and monitoring; airport access controls; background checks and vetting of pilots, airport workers, and others having access to GA facilities; and physical protections for airports and aircraft.

Report: [http://www.opencrs.com/rpts/RL33194\\_20051215.pdf](http://www.opencrs.com/rpts/RL33194_20051215.pdf)

Source: <http://opencrs.cdt.org/document/RL33194>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Agriculture Sector**

**19. *December 20, SwissInfo* — Bovine spongiform encephalopathy almost eradicated in Switzerland.** For the second year in a row just three cases of Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) were diagnosed in Switzerland in 2005. The disease appears to be close to eradication. Switzerland has been cited as a good role model in the fight against BSE. The latest figures confirm the steady fall in the numbers of new BSE cases in the national herd since 2001. Marcel Falk of the Federal Veterinary Office told Swissinfo that it was now possible to "see the beginning of the end of BSE in Switzerland." He said the fact that the number of cases had remained stable in 2005 confirmed that the drop seen in 2004 — from 21 to just three — was more than merely a statistical blip. Falk said it was impossible to say when BSE might finally disappear from Switzerland, given that the incubation period for the disease was at least five years, and could be as long as ten to 12 years. But he said the three cows diagnosed with the disease this year were likely to have contracted it several years ago. In 1990 Switzerland became the third European country after Britain and Ireland to register cases of BSE in its cattle.

Source: <http://www.swissinfo.org/sen/swissinfo.html?siteSect=107&sid=6331691&cKey=1135075702000>

**20. *December 20, Agricultural Research Service* — Better, faster vaccinations for poultry.** Egg producers now have access to a new tool developed by the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) that helps protect laying flocks from serious diseases like infectious bronchitis, mycoplasmosis, and exotic Newcastle disease. Each year, mycoplasmosis alone costs U.S. producers more than \$140 million, partly due to uneven vaccine delivery. Vaccines are currently dispensed to egg-laying leghorn chickens as an inhalable mist sprayed inside poultry houses. The applicator consists of a hose attached to a machine inside a backpack that resembles a modified leaf blower. The machine makes an ear-piercing noise that disturbs the birds, while the vaccine spray reaches its intended targets only about half the time. Now, a more effective vaccinator has been developed by ARS researchers in the Poultry Research Unit. The

CPJ Vaccinator is a battery-powered, 6-foot-tall by 5-foot-long device with nozzles on both sides that quietly spread the vaccine to three tiers of birds at once without disturbing them. The vaccine is dispensed so uniformly that it reaches more than 90 percent of the birds to be treated. Field trials showed that with the CPJ Vaccinator one person was able to vaccinate 75,000 chickens in about seven minutes, compared to five people taking 45 minutes conventionally. Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=1261>

21. *December 20, Associated Press* — **Farms to be required to register with state.** The Vermont Agency of Agriculture wants to keep closer track of all livestock in the state to be prepared in the event of a disease outbreak. The agency has proposed requiring that all livestock farms register with the state starting in July. The new rules must first be approved by a legislative rule-making committee. If passed, they would take effect in July, officials said. The plan is part of a national effort to eventually identify individual animals and store that information in a database, officials said. With such a database, if an infected animal is discovered, officials could determine what other animals it had contact with and how to respond. The state's livestock have been relatively disease-free for close to 20 years, officials said. Vermont eradicated tuberculosis in 1979, brucellosis in 1982 and is working to control rabies and West Nile virus. The federal government required all states to develop a farm registry system by 2005. Vermont has not yet determined what size farms will have to register. Vermont farms can start registering voluntarily in January. Source: <http://www.rutlandherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/2005/1220/NEWS/512200343/1004>

22. *December 19, Associated Press* — **Hurricanes may have spread canker to a quarter of Florida's groves.** This year's hurricanes may have spread the dreaded citrus canker to as much as a quarter of Florida's commercial citrus groves, federal agriculture officials said Monday, December 19. Hurricanes Wilma and Katrina, the two hurricanes that hit the state's citrus-growing regions in 2005, may have spread the disease to between 169,000 acres to 183,000 acres, officials from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and University of Florida scientists told growers at a meeting. The canker spread in 2005 would be twice as large as that caused by three hurricanes in 2004. After a decade-long battle, state and federal agriculture workers had been close to eliminating citrus canker, which causes fruit and leaves to drop prematurely, but the hurricanes of 2004 spread the disease to new areas in the heart of the state's citrus production. Growers already had lost more than 80,000 acres -- or more than 10 percent of the state's groves -- to canker spread by Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Jeanne. Source: [http://www.bradenton.com/mld/bradenton/news/breaking\\_news/13443541.htm](http://www.bradenton.com/mld/bradenton/news/breaking_news/13443541.htm)

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## **Food Sector**

23. *December 15, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* — **Recall of olive tapenade extended.** Harry & David Operations Corp., of Medford, OR, is recalling 360 jars of Black and Kalamata Olive Tapenade because they have the potential to be contaminated with *Clostridium botulinum*, a bacterium which can produce a toxin that can cause life-threatening illness or death. The Black and Kalamata Olive Tapenade was distributed throughout the U.S. only at Harry and David stores, and not distributed through mail order. The date of distribution to the

Harry and David store locations ranges from November 17 through December 12, 2005. One unconfirmed illness has been reported to date. The recall was initiated after it was discovered that product had an unstable pH. The product was produced by a co-packer, Enterprise Custom Foods, Orange, CA, for Harry and David. Harry & David Operations Corp., issued a recall press release on November 14, 2005, for a different lot of this product.

Source: [http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/harrydavid12\\_05.html](http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/harrydavid12_05.html)

- 24. December 15, U.S. Food and Drug Administration — Salmon pastrami recalled.** Woodsmoke Provisions, LLC is voluntarily recalling twenty eight pounds (28 lbs.) / 112 individual packages of Premium Smoked Salmon Pastrami Style packed in four-ounce vacuum packages with the specific lot code 301-05 855 which was manufactured October 28th, 2005 and distributed through a limited number of The Fresh Market, Inc. stores located in FL, AL, TN, NC, VA, GA, and LA because they have the potential to be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*. *Listeria monocytogenes* is a common organism found in nature that can cause serious complications for pregnant women. Other problems can manifest in people with compromised immune systems. It can also cause serious flu-like symptoms in healthy individuals. The problem was discovered after routine sampling by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Subsequent analysis conducted by the Department's food laboratory personnel revealed the presence of *Listeria monocytogenes* in only one of the three tested packages. No illnesses have been reported to date.

Source: [http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/woodsmoke12\\_05.html](http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/woodsmoke12_05.html)

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## **Water Sector**

Nothing to report.

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## **Public Health Sector**

- 25. December 20, Reuters — Indonesia to begin bird flu surveillance in capital.** Indonesia will launch house-to-house surveillance of poultry in Jakarta in a bid to halt the spread of deadly bird flu, a minister said on Tuesday, December 20. Local communities, student volunteers, and military forces will be deployed to inspect poultry across the sprawling capital of nearly nine million people, where four of the country's confirmed nine deaths have occurred. "For the initial stage, we will carry out mass surveillance starting on December 22 in Jakarta. It will be done door to door," Agriculture Minister Anton Apriyantono told reporters. Apriyantono did not elaborate on the number of people such extensive monitoring would take or how much it would cost. Since July, Indonesia has had nine deaths from bird flu confirmed by a Hong Kong laboratory affiliated with the World Health Organization and five cases where patients have survived. Officials are awaiting confirmation from Hong Kong of local tests which showed a 39-year-old man and an eight-year-old boy died from the H5N1 virus this month. Indonesia, with 220 million people, has many millions of chickens and ducks, the majority in the backyards of rural or urban homes. The virus has been found in poultry in two-thirds of the nation's 33 provinces.

Source: [http://today.reuters.co.uk/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=globalNews&storyID=2005-12-20T085222Z\\_01\\_FLE031928\\_RTRUKOC\\_0\\_US-BI-RDFLU-INDONESIA-SURVEILLANCE.xml](http://today.reuters.co.uk/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=globalNews&storyID=2005-12-20T085222Z_01_FLE031928_RTRUKOC_0_US-BI-RDFLU-INDONESIA-SURVEILLANCE.xml)

**26. *December 19, Medscape* — Urban, teaching hospitals most prepared for bioterrorism, mass casualties.** Teaching hospital staffs, particularly from larger urban-based facilities, have undertaken the greatest amount of training for potential terrorist attacks and mass casualties since September 2001, according to survey data presented at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association. These baseline data come from a questionnaire added to the 2003 National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NJAMCS). NJAMCS is an annual survey completed by hospital administrators from a nationally representative sample of 546 general and short-stay hospitals in the U.S. According to the survey, most of the 399 hospitals that responded had emergency terrorism response plans in place, and 92 percent of these had revised their plans since September 2001. Almost all had provisions to contact outside entities, such as state and local public health departments and law enforcement. Only 46 percent had formal arrangements with other hospitals to accept transfers of inpatients should their surge capacities be exceeded during a disaster. Most of the responding hospitals (87 percent) indicated they were members of a regional interagency disaster preparedness task force. Only 34 percent were designated to receive patients through the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS). Another one third of responders were unsure of their NDMS designation.

Source: <http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/520073>

**27. *December 19, United Press International* — Possible new anthrax drug.** New treatment options against anthrax are needed, since some anthrax strains have already developed resistance against the only current treatment, ciprofloxacin, researchers say. An antibiotic known as dalbavancin may be an option. "Dalbavancin appears to be a good candidate for treatment in post-anthrax exposure situations," said Henry Heine, a microbiologist at the U.S. Army Medical Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID). Once dalbavancin is approved, a course of treatment would require only seven or eight pills as opposed to 120 with Cipro. In a presentation at the annual Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, Heine said the drug has already proved effective to animals exposed to anthrax during laboratory studies. Heine and colleagues placed mice in an enclosure and exposed them to aerosolized anthrax. About 24 hours after exposure, some of the mice were given dalbavancin. Another batch of mice was given the drug after 48 hours, and if there were mice still alive at 60 hours, they were also given the drug. All the untreated mice were dead within 72 hours of exposure. Depending upon the dose of the drug administered to the mice or the time of delivery after exposure, 80 percent to 100 percent of the treated animals survived, Heine said.

Source: <http://www.upi.com/HealthBusiness/view.php?StoryID=20051219-040805-9649r>

**28. *December 19, University of Central Florida* — Anthrax vaccine can be grown in plants.** Enough anthrax vaccine to inoculate everyone in the U.S. could be grown inexpensively and safely, a University of Central Florida (UCF) molecular biologist has found. Daniell's research, funded by the NIH, is a breakthrough in efforts to find a safe and effective method of producing large quantities of vaccine for anthrax. The new production method also could help the government and health care providers avoid supply shortages, as one acre of plants can produce 360 million doses in a year. Current production of the vaccine involves an expensive

fermentation process that can cause harmful side effects such as inflammation, flu-like symptoms, and rashes. Seeking a safer and more effective alternative, Daniell and his colleagues injected the vaccine gene into the chloroplast genome of tobacco cells. They grew the cells for several weeks in Daniell's laboratory. Tests showed the vaccine taken from the plants was just as potent as the one produced through fermentation but lacks the bacterial toxin that can cause harmful side effects. Researchers then injected the vaccine into mice to immunize them against anthrax and sent the mice to NIH labs, where they survived doses of anthrax several times stronger than the amounts to which humans have been exposed.

Source: <http://news.ucf.edu/UCFnews/index?page=article&id=0024004105c1b71a90107dcb09eb800751a>

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## **Government Sector**

**29. *December 20, Journal News (NY)* — Bomb squad called to Rockland courthouse.** New York's Rockland county bomb squad went to the County Courthouse on Monday, December 19, after a suspicious-looking briefcase was found inside the building. The briefcase turned out to be empty, possibly left behind to be thrown in the garbage, Sheriff's Patrol Chief Harry A. Stewart said. A court officer called the Sheriff's Department about 7:45 a.m. after officials couldn't find the briefcase's owner. The bomb squad used a mechanical disrupter, which sends an explosive charge and a stream of water into the briefcase to dismantle anything electronic, Stewart said. The charge is supposed to prevent any explosions. It also destroyed the case. "It turned out to be an empty briefcase," Stewart said. "That's the good news." This was the second abandoned briefcase the bomb squad has dismantled this year at the courthouse. The Rockland Sheriff's Department created a bomb squad in 2002 after getting a state grant of \$30,000.

Source: <http://www.thejournalnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051220/NEWS03/512200308/1023/NEWS07>

**30. *December 20, Department of Homeland Security* — Select DHS accomplishments for 2005.** Under new leadership, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) introduced a comprehensive, risk-based agenda in 2005 to change the department's practices, operations, and organizational structure. Many changes under this review have been implemented, including the creation of a department-wide policy office, a strengthened role in the intelligence community, the ability to conduct joint operations across the department, and a renewed focus on planning and preparedness. The following are select accomplishments over past the year: (1) Secretary Chertoff made it a top priority to strengthen border security, interior enforcement and reform the immigration process. DHS has improved existing border operations, established international partnerships, and developed new approaches to control our borders. (2) The Department of Homeland Security is committed to secure trade and travel. DHS is aggressively working with foreign partners to achieve our common security goals (3) DHS has a unified strategic direction that establishes measurable priorities, targets, and a common approach to developing needed preparedness and incident communication capabilities. (4) Support came from every component of the department for dealing with one of the greatest challenges, the response to the extensive devastation brought about by the most active storm seasons on record.

For more information on DHS, please visit <http://www.dhs.gov>

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=5158>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

**31. *December 20, Evening Times (AR)* — Drill tests response by agencies.** The Crittenden County Emergency Management Agency held an exercise Saturday, December 17, to test the response of emergency personnel in the event of a radioactive spill. With support from the Arkansas Department of Homeland Security, the Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program and U.S. Department of Energy, a mock accident scene was set up which included an 18-wheeler hauling radioactive materials, two cars and a van, which was overturned. One of the two cars was on fire, the other was full of weapons and mock terrorists. Victims were laying on the ground, surrounded by overturned barrels filled with mock radioactive waste. Other victims were trapped in the overturned van. Two Arkansas State Troopers were first to respond to the scene, followed by members of the West Memphis, Marion and Earle Fire Departments. Members of the Arkansas Highway Police also took part. Also responding were personnel from both Crittenden EMS and EMT Medical Ambulance Services, the AirEvac Lifeteam and the Memphis/Shelby County Fire Department. According to Crittenden County EMA Director Ronny Rogers, controllers who observed the incident will be compiling their reports and submitting them back to the departments for review.

Source: [http://www.theeveningtimes.com/articles/2005/12/20/news/news\\_4.txt](http://www.theeveningtimes.com/articles/2005/12/20/news/news_4.txt)

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## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

**32. *December 20, Security Tracker* — HP WBEM Services unspecified flaw lets remote users deny service.** A vulnerability was reported in HP's WBEM Services. A remote user can cause denial of service conditions. The vendor has issued fixes. For HP-UX B.11.00, update to HP WBEM Services for HP-UX 1.5 or subsequent. For HP-UX B.11.11, update to HP WBEM Services for HP-UX 2.0 or subsequent. for HP-UX B.11.23, update to HP WBEM Services for HP-UX 2.0 or subsequent.

Vendor's advisory: [http://www2.itrc.hp.com/service/cki/docDisplay.do?docId=c005\\_82373](http://www2.itrc.hp.com/service/cki/docDisplay.do?docId=c005_82373)

Source: <http://www.securitytracker.com/alerts/2005/Dec/1015377.html>

### **Internet Alert Dashboard**

#### **DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis**

**Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.**

**US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis:** US-CERT is aware of malicious software

exploiting a vulnerability in the Microsoft Distributed Transaction Coordinator (MSDTC). Successful exploitation could allow a remote, unauthenticated attacker to execute arbitrary code on the system. US-CERT is also aware of increased scanning activity on port 1025/tcp, a port commonly used by this service. For more information about this vulnerability can be found in the following US-CERT Vulnerability Note:

VU#180868 Microsoft Distributed Transaction Coordinator vulnerable to buffer overflow via specially crafted network message please see vulnerability note: <http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/180868>

Microsoft has released an update to address this vulnerability in Microsoft Security Bulletin MS05-051 please see: <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/Bulletin/MS05-051.mspx>

US-CERT encourages administrators to apply the appropriate updates as soon as possible.

#### Current Port Attacks

<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	1026 (win-rpc), 6881 (bittorrent), 445 (microsoft-ds), 4142 (oidocsvc), 2234 (directplay), 80 (www), 3800 (----), 25 (smtp), 50497 (----), 23987 (----) Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; Internet Storm Center
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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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## **Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector**

33. *December 20, Associated Press* — **No leads, no suspects in stolen explosives.** Federal investigators have joined with Albuquerque, NM, police and state police in the hunt for hundreds of pounds of plastic explosives stolen Sunday, December 18, at a secure Albuquerque storage facility. Also missing are 2,500 blasting caps, 250 pounds of deta sheets and an undetermined length of explosive detonation cords. Deta sheets are especially dangerous. They can be hidden in books or letters and cannot be spotted by a metal detector. Engineers use them for detonation. The director of the federal Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) Agency in New Mexico, Wayne Dixie, said the materials are highly explosive. In the hands of those who know how to use it, there is enough explosive material to level a building, Dixie said. Authorities are offering a reward of up to \$50,000 for information that helps them recover the stolen goods, which burglars cut through steel bars to get to. The materials are owned by Cherry Engineering, Inc., a federally certified explosives storage facility in compliance with ATF regulations, Dixie said. The site was inspected weekly. Governor Bill Richardson said there is the possibility the explosives were taken simply so they could be sold.  
Source: <http://www.thenewmexicochannel.com/news/5585322/detail.html>

**34. *December 20, 11Alive (GA)* — Suspicious package by Atlanta hotel.** A suspicious package left on the sidewalk in front of the Windsor Hotel in downtown Atlanta on Tuesday, December 20, turned out to be a cell phone charger. Authorities responded to reports of a device left at North Avenue and Peachtree Street. After X–raying the device, authorities detected wires in its composition. Authorities exploded the device and later determined it to be a cell phone charger. Source: [http://www.11alive.com/news/news\\_article.aspx?storyid=73543](http://www.11alive.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=73543)

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## **General Sector**

**35. *December 20, New York Times* — Spain seizes 15 linked to al Qaeda in Iraq.** The Spanish police arrested 15 people on Monday, December 19, on charges that they had formed a recruiting network linked to al Qaeda that sent Islamic militants to Iraq, the Interior Ministry said. The ministry said one man, a 25–year–old Iraqi identified as Abu Sufian, had close ties to Abu Musab al–Zarqawi, who is the American forces' most–wanted man in Iraq. Spanish officials said they had not determined how many recruits had been sent to Iraq, but the interior minister, José Antonio Alonso, said at least two had been preparing to travel there as fighters. He said there was no evidence the group was planning to carry out an attack in Spain. But he said the group had materials to make explosives and was clearly capable of an attack. One of the men, a Belarussian identified as Sergei Malyschew, also known as Amin al–Ansari, is considered an expert in chemical weapons, the ministry said. A 36–year–old Ghanaian identified as Muhammad G. appears to have helped Africans travel to the U.S. under false identities, but it is not clear if they had any ties to terrorist groups, ministry officials said. Source: [http://www.nytimes.com/2005/12/20/international/europe/20spa\\_in.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2005/12/20/international/europe/20spa_in.html)

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<http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

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To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov) or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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